

HOUSE RESOLUTION 140

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Jerry Taylor upon his receipt of the 2016 Southeast Regional Earth Team Individual Volunteer of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should salute those exemplary citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Jerry Taylor, who recently received the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 2016 Southeast Regional Earth Team Individual Volunteer of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, for more than eighty years, the NRCS, a branch of the USDA, and its predecessor agencies have worked in close partnerships with farmers, ranchers, local and state governments, and other federal agencies to maintain healthy and productive working landscapes; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Scott County, Jerry Taylor provided invaluable services to both the NRCS and the Scott County Soil Conservation District (SCD) in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor has made a number of contributions to encourage conservation education, including displaying and discussing his arrowhead collection to more than 350 fifth graders during Conservation Day, taking groups around the Cumberland Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council's Envirothon Competition, and working with the SCD Board to plan a district-sponsored field day; and

WHEREAS, for one day a month, Mr. Taylor helps the SCD maintain its rental equipment, including the no-till drills, the lime spreaders, and the manure spreaders. His efforts help landowners use top-notch equipment and improve natural resources of the county; and

WHEREAS, he has also helped the rehabilitation efforts of the Pine Creek Dam in Oneida. Having worked with Soil Conservation Services (SCS) fifty years ago when the watershed dams were constructed, he was able to provide invaluable information on the dams; and

WHEREAS, for two months, Jerry Taylor volunteered as an inspector on thirteen Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) sites in Scott County. The sites were deemed EWP due to severe flooding through findings from NRCS and the Scott Highway Department; the sites were repaired to aid in the safety of local residents. Mr. Taylor's efforts saved the NRCS a great deal of money by ultimately costing the agency nothing; and

WHEREAS, the USDA, the NRCS, the SCD, and the people of Scott County are indebted to the services of Jerry Taylor. His contributions to conservation efforts, both practical and educational, are a significant benefit to this State and this great nation; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should acknowledge and applaud Jerry Taylor for his many contributions to the good people of Tennessee, his unwavering commitment to others, and his astute volunteer leadership in Scott County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize and commend Jerry Taylor upon his receipt of the United States Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service 2016 Southeast Regional Earth Team Individual Volunteer of the Year Award and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.